

SUMMARY OF PERTINENT

STATE LEGISLATION 1955-1965

1955 Legislature

Joint Resolution No. 72, A., on June 17, 1955, created the Menominee Indian Study Committee of the Joint Legislative Council. A 14-member committee was directed "to study the (transition) problems and develop specific recommendations and legislative proposals for presentation to the Joint Legislative Council so that it can introduce the necessary bills [at the opening of the 1957 legislature]."

Bill No. 775, A., relating to the supervision by the banking department of "the loan funds of any Indian tribe which are transferred to the custody of such tribe by the United States" was introduced on May 19, 1955, by the assembly committee on rules, and was published as Ch. 525, Laws of 1955, on August 9, 1955.

Bill No. 801, A., appropriated \$5,000 to the study committee; it was introduced on June 10, 1955, by the assembly committee on rules, and was published as Ch. 596, Laws of 1955, on Aug. 24, 1955.

Joint Resolution No. 119, A., was introduced on October 5, 1955, by the assembly committee on rules to change the study committee membership from 14 to 16 by adding 1 member each from the state board of health and the governor's commission on human rights. It was concurred in by the senate on Oct. 6, 1955.

1957 Legislature

Bill No. 798, A., continuing the study committee, was introduced on May 29, 1957, by the joint committee on finance at the request of the legislative council. It was published as Ch. 464, Laws of 1957, on August 6, 1957. This became § 13.352, Wis. Stats.

1959 Legislature

Bill No. 598, S., creating Menominee county upon termination becoming final, was introduced by the legislative council on May 21, 1959, and was published as Ch. 259, Laws of 1959, on Aug. 7, 1959. This act also authorized a 5-year restriction on transfer of Menominee Enterprises' stock certificates by their Menominee owners (§ 231.45, Wis. Stats.)

Bill No. 892, A., providing a new method of taxation of Menominee forest lands required by the federal termination act to be operated on a sustained yield basis, was introduced on May 27, 1959, by the legislative council, and was published as Ch. 258, Laws of 1959, on August 6, 1959.

Bill No. 893, A., relating to shared taxes held in escrow for the Menominee Indian reservation, was introduced by the legislative council on May 27, 1959, and was published as Ch. 260, Laws of 1959, on August 7, 1959.

1961 Legislature

The 1961 session saw a small reduction in pertinent proposals for consideration. Bill No. 53, S., creating § 224.10 (1) (c), Wis. Stats., relative to the administration of the Menominee Indian tribe loan fund after termination, was

introduced on January 24, 1961, by the legislative council, and was published as Ch. 83, Laws of 1961, on May 27, 1961.

Bill No. 54, S., to renumber § 20.520 (5) and to create § 20.520 (5) (b), Wis. Stats., relative to an appropriation to assist the Menominees in the establishment of the Menominee county government, was introduced on January 24, 1961, by the legislative council, and was published as Ch. 6, Laws of 1961, on March 8, 1961.

Bill No. 52, S., to amend § 70.057, Wis. Stats., relating to federal control over the Menominees, was introduced on January 24, 1961, by the legislative council and was published as Ch. 46, Laws of 1961, on May 9, 1961.

Bill No. 153, S., relating to the computation of the first highway allotments for Menominee county and town, was introduced on February 9, 1961, by the senate committee on highways, and was published as Ch. 115, Laws of 1961, on June 13, 1961.

Resolution No. 19, A., relating to the birth of Menominee county as Wisconsin's 72d county, was introduced on May 3, 1961, by the entire membership of the assembly, and was adopted on the same day.

1963 Legislature

In the 1963 session, there was an increase in Menominee proposals. Bill No. 34, A., to create § 65.90 (7), Wis. Stats., relating to the anticipation of revenues by the town of Menominee under the budget provisions in § 65.90 (1) and (2), was introduced on January 15, 1963, by the legislative council and was published as Ch. 38, Laws of 1963, on April 30, 1963.

Bill No. 356, A., relating to the selection of supervisors in counties containing a single town, was introduced on February 28, 1963, and was published as Ch. 375, Laws of 1963, on October 8, 1963.

Bill No. 2, S., to create § 20.670 (5) and 49.70, Wis. Stats., relating to a welfare program for the owners of Menominee Enterprises securities by authorizing the state department of public welfare to lend up to \$1 million to Menominee for welfare purposes on the security of their income bonds to that amount, was introduced on December 11, 1963, at the request of the governor. It was enacted and published as Ch. 2 of special session Laws of 1963, Jan. 7, 1964.

Bill No. 888, A., to create § 20.550 (9), Wis. Stats., appropriating \$80,000 to Menominee county to assist in paying for operating costs because of an unexpected high level in active TB cases, was introduced on April 16, 1964, by the joint committee on finance at the request of the governor. It was published as Ch. 546, Laws of 1963, on June 2, 1964, effective June 3, 1964.

Bill No. 858, A., directing the state investment board to purchase bonds of the Menominee corporation from the general fund in an amount not exceeding \$3 million in the aggregate.

On Jan. 1, 1964, the income bonds of Menominee Enterprises, Inc., held by members of the Menominee tribe became freely transferable. The statutes [§ 231.45, Wis. Stats.] contained the provision that when the options on the bonds came up, the corporation would have the first option to buy them, and if not purchased by the corpora-

tion, the option would be assigned to the state and could be purchased by the state investment board.

It was reported to the Menominee Indian study committee by Mr. Frederick Sammond, attorney for Menominee Enterprises, Inc., that the corporation was not in a position to buy back the bonds and was interested in assigning its options to the state.

The committee unanimously approved the proposal to direct the investment board to purchase the income bonds in an amount not exceeding \$3 million. This recommendation was introduced as Bill No. 858, A., in the November session of the 1963 legislature by an assembly member of the MISC. The bill passed both houses of the legislature, but was vetoed by the governor because Ch. 2, Laws of 1963 special session, related to a similar problem and could be used by the Menominee.

Scholarships to Wisconsin institutions of higher education for Indians living on taxable lands are supplied through matched state and federal funds and administered by the department of public instruction. The money for this program amounts to \$14,000 each year from the federal government, matched by the state, or \$28,000. The maximum amount that could be given to an applicant was \$600 per year.

1965 Legislature

Bill No. 300, S., restraining the alienation of any bond, stock, certificate of interest, voting trust certificate or other security issued by the Menominee corporation for a period not to exceed 10 years. Menominee Enterprises, Inc., securities become negotiable on Jan. 1, 1966. Consequently,

officials of the corporation issued ballots for the Menominee people to vote on extending this negotiable date for 5 additional years. Of the 327,000 shares among the Menominee, 214,540 voted for the extension. (Each enrolled Menominee owns 100 shares.) Only "yes" votes were requested with the assumption that non-returned ballots represented "no" votes.

The proposal to restrict security sales was approved by the study committee and was introduced amending § 231.45, Wis. Stats. It became Ch. 156, Laws of 1965.

Although restraining the sale of the corporation's securities until 1971, the bill does not prohibit the transfer by will or operation of law upon the death of the owner of any such security, but may provide for an option to the Menominee corporation upon such transfer. If the corporation fails to purchase the security, the state of Wisconsin investment board will be given the same purchasing option.

Bill No. 323, S., relating to an appropriation of \$300,000 to the state highway commission for an emergency highway work program in Menominee county. It became Ch. 395, Laws of 1965.

Bill No. 359, A., relating to state aid to tuberculosis sanatoria. Approved by the MISC, this measure would pay any sanatorium costs over the total amount paid by the county based on a graduated formula. Each county is responsible for its TB costs in the amount of \$500 per million dollars of the county's assessed valuation and the state will pay costs over this figure. Based on tuberculosis costs for 1964, this medical bill would have cost \$99,000, and Menominee county would have received \$67,000 of this fig-

ure. It is primarily a bill for the benefit of Menominee county, but it may benefit about 6 other counties as well.

The bill amends § 50.40 (7) (b), Wis. Stats., and creates § 50.40 (7) (d), Wis. Stats. It became Ch. 419, Laws of 1965, on Dec. 1, 1965.

Bill No. 595, A., became Ch. 287, Laws of 1965, on Sept. 29, 1965. This measure provides for the vocational education of Indian students, the aid not to exceed \$800 per individual student. This would be administered by the state board of vocational and adult education. The purpose of the bill is to provide approximately \$20 per week for room and board for the Indian student while he attends school.

Bill No. 914, A., amends § 20.650 (2) by changing the total amount for Indian college scholarships from \$14,000 per year (from state funds) to *sum sufficient*. The bill became Ch. 285, Laws of 1965, on Sept. 29, 1965.

APPENDIX

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